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BA 12/04/01



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masahiro SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2712 2612

Application No.: 08/859,276

Examiner: L. Nguyen

Filed: May 20, 1997

Docket No.: JAO 32382

For: INFORMATION INPUT APPARATUS AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement mailed November 6, 2001, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, Figure 4 with traverse. At least claims 1-15 and 31-35 read on the elected Species with claim 1 being the generic claim.

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It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. MPEP §803 "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to two distinct inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants in duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the Election of Species Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:CCH/cca

Date: November 30, 2001

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